

Application Ser. No. 10/025,629  
Preliminary Amendment filed with Request for Continued Examination

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-4 (cancelled, without prejudice)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the system remains at least in part operational during the cleaning.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein a mobile unit initially contains the cleaning solution to be introduced into the system.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein a hose connected from the mobile unit introduces a cleaning solution into the isolated pipe section.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the cleaning solution contains an organic acid.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the organic acid is selected from the group consisting of formic, acetic, propionic, citric, glycolic, lactic, tartaric, polyacrylic, succinic, and sulfonic.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the cleaning solution additionally contains an acid inhibitor and a dispersing agent.

Application Ser. No. 10/025,629  
Preliminary Amendment filed with Request for Continued Examination

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said spent cleaning solution is rendered environmentally safe before removal from said system.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the cleaning solution is rendered environmentally safe by adding a treating agent to the spent cleaning solution prior to removal.

Claim 13 (cancelled, without prejudice)

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the temporary fitting is a valve, plug, pipe, or combinations thereof.

Claims 15-22 (cancelled, without prejudice)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the isolated section is selectively operatively connected to a fire main system of the ship for restoration of the cleaned section with the countermeasure washdown system and the fire main system after cleaning.

Claim 24 (cancelled, without prejudice)

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 comprising a plurality of manifolds in said closed loop and said plurality of hoses connect a plurality of temporary fittings to said plurality of manifolds for circulation of cleaning solution through the isolated section in said closed loop.

Application Ser. No. 10/025,829  
Preliminary Amendment Filed with Request for Continued Examination

26. (currently amended) A method for chemically cleaning a countermeasure washdown system containing marine scale on board ships comprising

isolating a section of piping in the countermeasure washdown system for the delivery of a cleaning solution, wherein said section includes a plurality of washdown spray nozzles and aluminum piping,

inactivating said spray nozzles by removing and replacing them with temporary fittings,

configuring the isolated section into a closed loop by using connectors between (a) an end of the section and a manifold, (b) the manifold and a pump, and (c) the pump and a source of cleaning solution,

wherein the connectors comprise a plurality of hoses which connect said temporary fittings to said manifold for circulation of cleaning solution through the isolated section in said closed loop,

introducing an acid cleaning solution having a pH of about 2 to about 2.2 into the section,

monitoring and maintaining said pH during cleaning of said section to effectively produce the cleaned section without damage to the aluminum piping.

circulating the cleaning solution through the section in said closed loop to remove said marine scale and sediment from the interior of the section,

Application Ser. No. 10/025,629  
Preliminary Amendment filed with Request for Continued Examination

removing the cleaning solution containing the marine scale and  
sediment from the section to provide a cleaned interior section, and  
restoring the cleaned section with the system.